4 5 8

My dear Maria 21 1 1821 Keats's dying Rome - Sunday

Away from you all I feel my sundays pass the [illegible]
[illegible] is going dreamily on I will set down and dine with you [illegible]
my only real pleasure is the remembrance of you all - here it passes in my [illegible]
"Joseph come - why he always comes when the dinner is over - Oh! says
poor mother (heaven preserve her to see all my views accomplished and [illegible]
myself happy) Oh! and all the nice cabbage cold - yes says my father
[illegible] the young dog - are you sure Charles he said that he'd come - [illegible]
it was all ready - I left him —— O! here he is - here he is" - See the company
here come - peal your turnips - pick your plums - Thunders [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] ~~and~~ round the table make a ring - See the dogs tails [illegible]
[illegible] but I cannot be merry - unless I be with you - yet this train of thought
always helps me to be happy - O! the English welcome I always had at my [illegible]
fathers table - the kind and loving faces I always saw - the happy contented look
of my father when I visited him - and the oftener the more happy he seemed - the
anxious tenderhearted look of my mother - with all her kind enquiries - then the
goodnatured laugh of my dear Maria - and her eye looking at me from head
to foot to see that her Joseph was all neat and clean - hearty Tom looking at me
and some new Music at once - eating his dinner and playing on the Organ at the
same time - and the good boy Charles giving me his seat - O! this is woven round
and round my heart - and was my heart the only [illegible] for my ambition
this would be my every thing - but it is not - my heart will be ever at my dear
home - but my head is restless for fame and fortune - and now after [illegible]
on the waves and travelling 2500 miles - here I am above a thousand miles
away from you - and where I may be next I know not ~~[illegible]~~ I hope here in Rome - as an Irishman would say —

Feb 11th X —— You will be glad to know that I am in good health and with
the best prospects - yet still by the side of my dying friend - and there will I
remain ~~[illegible]~~ until he is no more - for my dear Maria - without me he would
have died long since - I have kept him alive and given him every chance of
recovery - but I fear it is all over with him - it is an awful task for me - yet
how astonishing that I bear up so well - he has been confined to his bed two
Months during which time I have scarce ever left him - except just for a
[illegible] out - for a mouthful of fresh air - but no more of this letter on a subject
[illegible] [illegible] keep up my spirits - therefore I must not [illegible]

[illegible] trying to paint a picture for the Royal Academy – my sketch is very
[illegible] approved of it is still dismal – The assination of Alcibiades – a greek
[illegible] of great beauty and valor – the assassins surrounded his Villa – set
[illegible] fire – and then prepared to kill him should he come out – he did come
[illegible] but his appearence was so terrible – so godlike – that they all ran
frightened to a distance – when they drew their arrows and killd him
this picture will be the same size as the last – I have daily a visit from
the Architectural Student who is now here from the Royal ~~Acady~~ his time
expires in July next – and he seems certain I shall succeed him – he says
it depends entirely on myself – very well does it – then I shall continue as I did
with my last Picture – and do my best to be away from you three years –
three years – O how can I bear it – for I am sometimes thinking that I have
gained all I can here for my painting – but I must be in the wrong ————

Feby 14 – Tell Father – that the only advantage I can see here over good old England
the beauty of the winter climate – at the beginning of January all the trees were
in blossom here – and in our houses ~~here~~ we have roses blowing – when I know you have
nothing but your bellows's blowing – but the summer here is so immensely hot – that
every body able leave the place – if not turned to butter they turn to clay – They
have no musical Instruments worth a curse – the best toned instrument here is a
Chamber=pot – they ^Romans make them ^thick and it is astonishing what a fine ^tone is produced by
kicking them – could not a new Instrument be made from these – let it be called
a Chamber=Organ – The bell at St Peters is very fine in tone – I think better than
our St Paul's. —— (February 19th I have just got your letter ^my dear Maria – O I have shed tears and tears
of joy to find my dear home the same – all happy – and all well – I thank God for this his
greatest blessing – you have written me just such a letter as I wanted – O you cannot know the
[illegible] – I have finished my breakfast with it – there
are the particulars on which I can feed my comfort – you must write me such another – never
mind about good writing – and don't inconvenience yourself with it – set down now and then
say any particulars – and if you can get Father to write me a little it will be like a
nother picture of home – ever so little I shall be much gratified to have it – and Sarah will
now give a little in black and white I shall make her my best bow for it – I hope
[illegible] wont write with his fiddle stick – will make small writing that I may have a
[illegible] for my love as well as my money) Tell Father – that the Marquiss Canova
[illegible] a pipe and a pot together" at our first meeting – that he was exceeding

kind to me — the letter of recommendation gave me a most friendly welcome & [illegible]
President's letter — he has promised me his service at any time — and has already [illegible]
to [illegible] the Pope to permit me to study in any of his palaces — he seems to think
highly of my views — particularly from my receiving the gold medal amid [illegible]
contest — this sets me very high here — there is great expectation from my works — I
think to go very far beyond any painter I have seen so far — they have no original
and native ideas of Painting — they seem all dependent on other masters — nothing but
imitation — nothing but the same thing over and over again — now on this point what I do [illegible]
is my own — I find myself a real Englishman amongst these foreigners — and have
determined that there is nothing like or equal to England — Tell him that I continue
to think of painting from the English History when I return — I hope to glean
all the knowledge and beauties of foreign Art — and apply them to the [illegible]
of my own Country — this has never struck any painter — is it not a lucky thing
I am now thinking of my future on the plan of Raphael's pictures in the
Vatican Palace — one picture I have in my head is the golden Age of England
— The Court of Queen Elizabeth — with portraits of all the distinguished folk
of her time — Sir W Raleigh — Shakspeare & &c &c. — to this I hope to take a tour
all over England to collect the antiquities and records for my purpose — tell
Father something tells me that he will go with me on this tour — I know his
[illegible] for all these old ruins — my object will be to propose my plan to some English
Nobleman — Father must not doubt my success in this — for there are several
painters here — sent out by [illegible] of fortune — I look forward with great
hope and delight — I feel that I shall be successfull — since [illegible] here all my
soul has opened for Painting — I have been led here by providence — thank God for
it for it was the height and every thing for my studies. — ✕ Tell my Mother
that poor Keats has lived on bread and milk for [illegible] the only thing
he can take — that his poor foe is going on very well — I get very good dinners [illegible]
my half pint of wine (for 3 halfpence) afterwards — I am obliged to take great
care of myself and do — I am looking very well and I can assure her [illegible]
every body is showing me great kindness — but particularly the lady I mention
she is the wife ✕ of Keats' Physician — Dr Clark ✕ — no kindness that can be
[illegible] but is shown us — I have every personal comfort possible — even to cabbage
[illegible] not my dear Mother! — I make bread and milk three times a day for [illegible]
for myself — sometimes tea — sometimes Chocolate — or coffee — my dinner [illegible] I go

... I have for 1st dish — mango fish — it is like a dish of large white [illegible]
... fish with butter — very good — my 2d dish — is fine and tender
... Beef or Mutton — a cutlet of Pork or [illegible] — their vegetables here
are beautiful — cabbage — cauliflower — [illegible] — spinach — very good — and
well cooked — then I have pudding every day — oh! still my Joe says my Mother (the puddings
are beautiful — rice particularly — plum pudding delicious — they even [illegible] to
the English name — the fact is there are so many English here (about 20 [illegible]
almost the [illegible] — Tell Mr [illegible] that I am overjoyed to hear that she is [illegible]
going with this to me is the most agreeable news in your letter — that she is still [illegible]
and with success — [illegible]
think of her more than any of you — her kindness to me has been [illegible]
Heaven preserve and protect her forth — tell her that I shall be [illegible]
[illegible] at some future time many of the [illegible] things I [illegible] to take [illegible]
[illegible] that I make a very good housekeeper
[illegible] — the ladies here are a done able to [illegible] the wonderful [illegible] — not the [illegible]
[illegible] not the least [illegible] in dress — England is the only place to look [illegible]
[illegible] at [illegible] to please to see that the rats and mice do not get [illegible] my
books or [illegible] my pictures — I know they are very clever at taking [illegible]
I suppose she keeps my room the same — as tho' I was coming home to dinner —
she is a good creature — she is the little [illegible] that [illegible] to keep [illegible]
[illegible] of poor [illegible] — Tell Charlotte — poor Charlotte — how unfortunate
that I did not see her before I came away — tell her that I hope and pray to see [illegible]
[illegible] in a nice happy little house with a vegetable garden for her little one
[illegible] about me — and evermore good health and good fortune — I wish not [illegible]
her content for she always had and always will — tell her that Rome has
— and [illegible] are not favorable [illegible] they are [illegible]
their [illegible] — and teach them good manners — to remember me kindly to
— tell him that there is no place like England for trade or comfort — here
[illegible] I have passed through have none of that — Tell Sam he
is honor to his father — he deserves to be the "pipers son" and that I will like
it better and better on his account — from the great "Hogarty" to the [illegible]
[illegible] that to the last [illegible] — I [illegible] sing praises to the Lord for his [illegible]
[illegible] that every step he makes in life — that every "movement" may [illegible]
[illegible] with [illegible] good fortune — that his most happy [illegible]